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LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 26, 1972

10:00 o'clock a.m.

H. C. WRIGHT, Presiding

Wild Life and Fisheries
Building
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.
Stenotypists

333 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1221
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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . . The Board Meeting of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, September 26, 1972, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, H. C. Wright, Vice Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

H. C. WRIGHT, Vice Chairman

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director

L. J. AUTIN

DOYLE G. BERRY

J. L. WALKER

A G E N D A

1. Approval of the minutes of meeting of July 25, 1972. (4)

HARRY SCHAFFER

2. Open oyster season for tonging in Calcasieu Lake. (4)

LYLE ST. AMANT

3. Request for permit by Donald G. Lambert Contractor, Inc., to dredge approximately (8)



1.3 million cubic yards of fill material
in the vicinity of Burnside, Louisiana,
between Mile 170 and Mile 171 AHP.

RICHARD K. YANCEY

- 4. Hunter orange requirements for deer hunters. (10)
- 5. Consider request from Barksdale Air Force (16)
Base for 50 alligators for restocking
purposes.
- 6. Report on experimental alligator season. (18)
- 7. Use of Commission airplanes. (22)

JOE HERRING

- 8. Deletion of land from Wisner Wildlife Manage- (26)
ment Area.
- 9. Richland Parish request for change in deer (29)
doe season.
- 10. Request for change in deer season in Vernon (32)
Parish; also use of range road. (49)

OTHER BUSINESS

- 11. Move October Commission meeting date one week (48)
ahead of normal shcedule. Conflicts
with Southeastern Association Conference.
- 12. Sale of boat ZORIC and transfer of boat (50)
WIDGEON.



13. Mr. James Walker

Conservation Fund.

(54)

Catahoula Lake Liaison.

(57)

14. Statement of Director Angelle (Thomas Damato) (59)

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CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: The September meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission will now come to order. We have a quorum of four members.

Do I hear approval of the minutes of the July 25 meeting?

MR. AUTIN: So move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded that the minutes be approved for the July meeting. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed, the same sign.

(No response)

So ordered.

Mr. Harry Schafer.

MR. HARRY SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman, I have one item on the agenda, and that is the opening of



the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake. We have had a field survey conducted in this area and found that the oyster population was similar to last year and I would recommend it be opened under the following conditions:

That it be opened on December 1 through March 31; that the fishing be limited to use of tongs only and to daylight hours; that the area to be opened be confined to Calcasieu Lake, including West Cove, with the exception of Calcasieu River, the Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork, and Oyster Bayou, which will remain closed; that the three-inch culling law will prevail and that the small oysters would be scattered over the perimeter of the reef; that the taking of oysters will be limited to 15 sacks for commercial use and two sacks daily for sport or home consumption; and that all commercial fishing of oysters be done with the proper licenses.

I would recommend that this be adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendations of Mr. Schafer. What is your pleasure?



MR. AUTIN: So move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Autin, seconded by Mr. Berry. Is there any opposition?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS the Commission biologists and the Chief of the Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods Division have recommended the fishing of the oysters of Calcasieu Lake including the West Cove area with the exception of the Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou, and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health has examined the growing waters of this aforementioned area and approved the waters for fishing oysters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED



by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, at its regular public monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 1972, that the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season for 1972-73 be set in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

- (1) That the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake be fixed to extend from daylight Friday, December 1, 1972, through sunset Saturday, March 31, 1973, with the right being reserved to extend said season or close it if biologically justifiable;
- (2) That oyster fishing be limited only to the use of tongs and to daylight hours;
- (3) The open areas shall be confined to Calcasieu Lake including the West Cove area, with the exception of Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou which shall be closed;



(4) The three-inch culling law shall be observed by all fishermen fishing the area and the culls shall be scattered around the perimeter of the reefs to provide for expansion and future harvesting;

(5) The taking of oysters shall be limited to 15 sacks per boat per day;

(6) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks) per boat per day;

(7) All commercial fishing of oysters shall be done only with proper licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized and empowered to extend or close said season, if biologically sound.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. St. Amant.

DR. LYLE S. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, this is a request from Donald G. Lambert Contractor, Inc., for a permit to dredge approximately 1.3 million cubic yards of



fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Burnside, Louisiana. This material is to be used in fulfilling a contract for the federal and state Highway I-10. We have examined this request. It meets all requirements set forth by the Commission. I therefore recommend that the permit be granted.

MR. ANGELLE: Does Mr. Lambert also have to get a permit or a letter of no objection from the Corps of Engineers, being this is in a navigable stream?

DR. ST. AMANT: This is the case but our permit, once it is granted, if it is granted by the Commission today, will serve as a letter of no objection and we can send a covering letter with it to the Corps.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation of Dr. St. Amant. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: I so move.

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any dis-



cussion? Any opposition?

(No response)

There being none, so ordered.

(The text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to DONALD G. LAMBERT CONTRACTOR, INC., to remove approximately 1.3 million cubic yards of fill material from the Mississippi River between Mile 170 and Mile 171 AHP in the vicinity of Burnside, Louisiana.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr. Yancey.

MR. RICHARD K. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, during the 1972 legislative session Act 580 was adopted, which provides for the wearing of hunter orange by deer hunters under certain conditions in Louisiana. We need a resolution clarifying the requirements for hunter orange on the Commission-owned or operated game management areas.



I have asked our Commission attorney, Mr. Peter Duffy, to draw up an appropriate resolution and he has done this. This resolution generally provides for the requirement that all deer hunters, both archers and gun hunters, would wear hunter orange when the gun season is open on the game management areas, but when the gun season is not open on the game management areas and only archery hunting is allowed, then the archers would not have to wear the hunter orange.

We would recommend that you all approve of this resolution which provides for these requirements. In the event that anyone is wondering what hunter orange is, I asked Joe Herring to bring a jacket and cap and model it for you, because we have got some deer hunters from Vernon Parish here today and they might be interested in this.

Of course, this is a safety requirement. Somebody said Joe Herring would make a good target with that on. Outside of the game management areas I think we are all aware of the fact that the Attorney General has ruled that archers would not be required to wear the hunter orange, whereas the



gun hunters who are on unposted or non-private lands would have to wear it.

We would recommend that you all adopt a resolution, clarifying these requirements on game management areas, as provided for in this resolution Peter Duffy has drafted.

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Yancey, you feel that this vest and hat meets the requirement of the law?

MR. YANCEY: Yes, this definitely meets the requirements. The law provides for 400 square inches of hunter orange on each deer hunter. Just the vest would actually meet the requirement.

THE CHAIRMAN: You all have heard the recommendation of Mr. Yancey. What is your pleasure?

MR. WALKER: I so move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Berry. Any discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

There being none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of



the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature by Act 580, adopted in its Regular Session in 1972 amended Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 by adding thereto a new section designated as LSA-R.S. 56:143, requiring persons engaged in the hunting of deer to display on their person a minimum amount of color known as "Hunter Orange," and also providing penalties and punishment for the violation of the added section; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable William J. Guste, Jr., Attorney General of the State of Louisiana, by formal opinion rendered September 13, 1972, has interpreted LSA-R.S. 56:143 (Acts, 1972, No. 850) as permitting the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to adopt regulations and/or rules implementing the "Hunter Orange" requirement set forth in LSA-R.S. 56:143 (Acts, 1972, No. 850) by hunters on game management areas



throughout the State of Louisiana, either titled in the Commission or leased by it from private individuals and/or corporations; and

WHEREAS, this Commission desires that the provisions of the act described herein apply to all game management areas throughout the State of Louisiana and by resolution adopts the following rule and regulation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all deer hunters, whether hunting with guns, rifles or bows and arrows, during the gun hunting season, commencing November 18, 1972, be and they are hereby required to wear "Hunter's Orange" in the manner and in the amounts required by LSA-R.S. 56:143 (Acts, 1972, No. 850) while hunting on all game management areas located in the State of Louisiana during permitted hunting hours;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during archery deer hunting season,



commencing on October 2, 1972, that all archers throughout the State of Louisiana be and they are hereby exempt from wearing "Hunter's Orange," but that all archers are required to wear "Hunter's Orange" as required by the legislative act described herein while hunting on all game management areas located in the State of Louisiana, during the gun deer hunting season above described;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all hunters violating the contents of this rule and regulation adopted for all wild life game management areas throughout the State of Louisiana subject themselves to the penalty adopted by the legislature in LSA-R.S. 56:143 (Acts, 1972, No. 850);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing rule and regulation applies to all future deer hunting seasons fixed by this Commission, whether they be for gun hunters or archery hunters, until further notice.



MR. YANCEY: We have a request from Barksdale Air Force Base for fifty alligators to be used for restocking purposes on the base, and we would recommend that you adopt a resolution authorizing the donation of fifty alligators to Barksdale Air Force Base. This would be contingent on, of course, their providing personnel and transportation to move these 'gators from either Rockefeller or Marsh Island to Barksdale, which would then mean that we would have little expense involved in this donation, which is for restocking purposes on some lakes that they have on the base.

MR. BERRY: Do they have any alligators up there now?

MR. YANCEY: They have a limited population up there but they have got three or four nice lakes that are high quality habitat for alligators and these are the areas that they want to restock. Of course, they have real good protection up there, too.

MR. ANGELLE: Do you have a copy of that letter from them?

MR. YANCEY: Yes, I do have a copy.



THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the request. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. WALKER: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Walker. Is there any discussion? Any opposition?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, Barksdale Air Force Base has requested 50 alligators to be used for restocking purposes on several lakes located within the boundaries of the base; and

WHEREAS, these animals are readily available on either the Marsh Island or Rockefeller Refuge;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this request is to be granted and that 50 alligators be provided Barksdale



Air Force Base from either the Marsh Island or Rockefeller Refuges.

MR. YANCEY: The alligator season, as we all know, has just ended, and it was felt that it would be timely that we bring out some of the highlights and results of that season at this meeting.

We would like to say that we concluded that the season worked out extremely well. This was a research effort and a tremendous amount of information was gathered that is going to be very valuable in the future management of this resource in Louisiana and in other southeastern states.

There were no cases made involving the taking of illegal skins, despite the fact that there was a very intensive enforcement made by agents of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and despite the fact that there were many dire predictions made that there would be a number of illegal alligators taken. The season was marred by one charge that was lodged against a buyer involved in the moving of alligators without proper shipping tags. This was the most carefully controlled and regulated season that has ever been conducted in Louisiana



on any form of wild life. It was also probably the most publicized and certainly it was the most scrutinized by members of the press.

We had a number of representatives from the press, including TV, radio and newspapers, on the scene during the season. Many of these people went into the field with the trappers. We also operated an open-door policy at the headquarters of the Rockefeller Refuge for the members of the press. We feel that this gave them an opportunity to see first-hand just how this season was being conducted, and I think it was an eye-opener to many people who had the wrong impression prior to arriving on the scene in Cameron Parish.

There was a total of 1,347 'gators taken. About 80 percent of those were male. They brought a total of \$74,614, which meant there was an average for each skin of \$55.93. The average price per linear foot was \$8.02. Some of the skins went for about \$11 per linear foot, which is the highest price ever offered for alligator skins in this state to our knowledge.

We feel that the results of this will



mean that this will provide a powerful incentive to other marsh landowners and trappers to protect and build up the population of alligators on their land. Certainly this can be an income-producer and a real potential for preserving Louisiana's coastal marshes. We feel that this is also going to result in material benefit to other forms of wild life which are dependent upon marsh areas for a place to live and breed and survive.

We know from this season now that there is a potential, a tremendous potential, that exists all along the Gulf Coast in the management of alligators and we feel that the results of this season are going to point us in that direction.

The season was not without criticism. Certainly criticism was levied by the National Audubon Society, by the Office of Endangered Species of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and by one state commissioner. We analyzed this criticism very carefully and we concluded that it was strictly negative and had no basis of fact or reason.

We would suggest that the Commission



authorize the Director to send a letter of appreciation to each member of the advisory committee who worked in the establishment of this season, including Dr. Chabreck, Dr. Glasgow and Mr. John Lynch of Lafayette, and certainly we think that the compliments are in order to be extended to the employees of the Commission who participated and worked hard during this season, because they put in long hours and we feel that they did a good job as a whole.

That basically concludes our report on the results of this season.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Yancey. I want to speak for the Commission and for the whole Commission. I think that we all appreciate the effort that you all put into this and the outcome of it. Do I hear a motion from anybody that we send letters of appreciation to the Committee and to the members of the Commission that did such wonderful work?

MR. BERRY: I so move.

MR. WALKER: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Walker, that the Director



be directed to send these letters of appreciation. Thank you, Mr. Yancey.

MR. YANCEY: We would also suggest that a policy be adopted, clarifying the use of the Commission aircraft. Certainly these aircraft are indispensable in the operation of the Commission program. Without the use of airplanes, I doubt if we could control illegal shrimping during the closed season. There are also enforcement of many other commercial seafood laws that are dependent upon aircraft, and certainly the spotting of pollution, waterfowl censuses, game surveys and so on down the line without the use of airplanes simply could not be effectively carried out.

We would like to recommend that you adopt a policy which would specify that Commission airplanes would be limited strictly to official business only and that all flights on all airplanes would be scheduled in advance only through the Executive Director's office by either a division chief or the assistant division chief, and that in arranging for a flight, the chief or his assistant would provide the name of the passenger, the



destination of the plane, the purpose of the flight, the point and time of departure and the estimated return time, and additionally that a log book be kept in each airplane which would be filled out at the conclusion of each flight which would show this information, including the number of hours flown, and that additionally a monthly flight record would be compiled at the end of each month, showing the complete use of each airplane and that this would be kept on file and available to anyone at the end of each month for inspection.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendations. Is there any comment?

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Yancey, I understand that this policy is now in force. Is that correct?

MR. YANCEY: A directive was sent out at the staff level to this effect, and we would recommend that it be put in the minutes of the Commission meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WALKER: I so move.

MR. BERRY: Second.



THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Berry. Any opposition?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, the use of aircraft is essential in the operations of the Commission programs including: law enforcement, wildlife censuses, pollution spotting, game range evaluations, aquatic weed surveys, marine fisheries programs, and rapid transportation to remote coastal facilities; and

WHEREAS, there is an apparent need for establishing a Commission policy in connection with the use of these aircraft;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
that all Commission aircraft will be used for official business only and that flights will be scheduled in advance



through the Director's office by the Division Chiefs or their Assistants or a member of the Director's staff;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following information must be provided in scheduling flights: (1) names of all passengers; (2) destination; (3) purpose of flight; (4) departure and return times;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that flight logs will be kept in each aircraft, and logs are to be filled in by each pilot at the conclusion of each flight. Further, that a monthly report showing the use of all Commission airplanes will be compiled, based upon the airplane logs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the exception to this policy will be in the event of an emergency condition or in connection with the use of federal-aid (P-R) aircraft, which is to be scheduled through the Game Division.



THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Yancey.
Mr. Joe Herring.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
The first item we have on the agenda is a request from the Edward Wisner Donation Foundation to release 5,760 acres from our Wisner Wild Life Management Area. If we release this 5,760 acres, it will make our present Wild Life Management Area about 20,550 acres in size.

As you know, this land is just leased to the Commission, as many of our other Wild Life Management Areas, and they do have the right at any time to withdraw part of this land. They do want to get a release from us so that they can develop this land for other purposes, and so at this time, since they do have that right with a lease agreement, I would recommend to the Commission that we release this 5,760 acres.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir, Mr. Walker.

MR. WALKER: What is the purpose, Joe, of them asking for the request to delete this acreage? What do they intend to do with it?



MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, in their request they did not state their actual intent of it. They just said they would like to release it for development purposes, and I feel sure it is for shipping purposes, barge purposes, in that area.

THE CHAIRMAN: Joe, we have no alternative except to release it, do we?

MR. HERRING: No, we have no alternative but to release it. About two years ago we released a little over 2,000, nearly 3,000 acres, from them at that time, and it has been developed for some of the shipping purposes in that area.

MR. WALKER: I understand the legal aspects of the question, but I was thinking maybe we might go back and try to negotiate with them to keep it.

MR. HERRING: We have met with them on that. They do want to get a release on it so they can develop it, and we have met with them on this and tried to renegotiate, but actually they want to develop the land, Mr. Walker.

MR. WALKER: I just hate to lose 5,000 acres.

MR. HERRING: Well, we hate to lose it,



too. In fact, when we lose 5,000 acres out of wild life management areas, this is half the size of some of our wild life management areas in this state, so we certainly hate to lose any part of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. I think we have no alternative.

MR. AUTIN: I so move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Autin, seconded by Mr. Berry. Is there any other discussion? Any opposition?

(No response)

There being none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, the Edward Wisner
Donation Advisory Committee has requested
the termination of some 5,760 acres of
land leased to the Louisiana Wild Life
and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, this 5,760 acres is



within the boundaries of the Wisner
Wild Life Management Area and

WHEREAS, under the existing
lease land from the Edward Wisner
Donation Advisory Committee land can
be deleted on written notice, and

WHEREAS, this land is described
as Section 31 and 32, T 22 S, R 23 E and
Sections 56, 78, 17, 18, 19 and 20 in
T 23 S, R 23 E, and

WHEREAS, the Edward Wisner
Donation Advisory Committee wishes to
develop this land for other purposes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission release the requested 5,760
acres from the Wisner Wild Life Management
Area back to the Edward Wisner Donation
Advisory Committee.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item
we have on the agenda is from the Richland Parish
Police Jury. What they are requesting is a change
in the any sex deer season for that parish.



I would like to say first that the Richland Parish Police Jury, by legislative act, does have the veto power on the doe seasons in that parish. Their request this year, to start with, was to increase the size of the doe hunting area from last year and also they had asked for a two-day doe season, one day each at the first of each of the split seasons. Now they have rescinded this motion that they originally made. They came back with another one to have the doe season the same as in 1971-72 season, which would make it just the first day of the season, and also cut down on the area that they had originally requested, and the area that they wish now would be an area bounded on the north by U. S. Highway 80, and on the east by Louisiana Highway 133, and on the south by the Bosco Road and on the west by the Lafourche Canal. That is the same area that they had last year. But they do wish to leave the H. O. Smith property they had recommended this year in.

Since they do have the veto power to change this, I would recommend that we do accept this from the Richland Parish Police Jury.



THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation of Mr. Herring. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: I so move.

MR. WALKER: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Walker. Is there any other discussion?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, the resolution has been received from the Richland Parish Police Jury requesting a change in the any sex deer season for that Parish, and

WHEREAS, the Richland Parish Police Jury does have the veto power as set by the Legislature on any sex deer seasons, and

WHEREAS, the original resolution is asking for an expansion of the any sex deer season from 1971-72, and



WHEREAS, the resolution as passed by the Police Jury requests a smaller area and to remain the same as 1971-72, and

WHEREAS, this area is described as bordered on the north by U. S. Highway 80, on the east by Louisiana Highway 133, on the south by the Rosco Road, and on the west by Lafourche Canal and the H. O. Smith property in Section 8, T 18 N, R 8 E. The any sex deer season will be on the first day of the second segment of the deer season which is November 18, 1972,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the any sex season for Richland Parish be the same during the 1972-73 season as it was during the 1971-72 season with the addition of the H. O. Smith property.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item we have on the agenda is a request from the Vernon Parish dog hunters over in that area to open the still hunting area in this parish, which is designated now on this map, if you can see it -- it is



not quite high enough for some -- this area here (indicating). I would like to explain a little bit about this still hunting area.

Nine years ago the western portion of this from Highway 171 west was closed to deer hunting. At that same time, we had only a 16-day hunting season in the remainder of this parish, trying to build up our deer herd. In 1964-65 the season was the same. The western portion of the parish was closed and the other part was open for deer hunting. In 1965-66 for the hunting season, we did open the whole parish, i.e., this western part which was closed, and it has continued to be open to this year. This year, we might say that in '63-64 it was a 16-day season, we have increased the whole area now to a 28-day still hunt. We have built up the deer herd in that area very gradually. We have had problems at different times. This is open hill-country type land and running dogs sometimes is a little hard there.

Now we have petitions from both sides, we might say, some wanting the area open for dog hunting and some people wanting the area to stay



as it is in a still hunting area.

At this time, with the recommendations that we had previously given in setting this season, I would recommend to the Commission that we keep the season as it is set now. This has been traditionally a still hunting area and in there we have, say, built up the deer population. This whole area down south of there is still hunting also. The area north of there is open for still hunting and some dog hunting. That is Area No. 2, as designated on there. The still hunts have worked out very successfully but we have had a lot of requests, you might say, from the dog hunters to open it. We do have some dog hunters here today and I feel sure they would like to say something to the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, if there is anyone in the audience who would like to be heard on this subject before we take it, would they come to the microphone, give their name.

MR. BEN HICKS: Mr. Chairman, other Members of the Commission, I am Ben Hicks of Vernon Parish. I have deer hunted all my life. Most



people in that area either hunt, still hunt or dog hunt.

Now Mr. Herring is right. He had petitions from some other people to leave the season as is. We were not aware that we even had a petition down here, because we had two public meetings, well advertised, radio announcements, at the Court-house in Leesville, trying to decide what we really did want. I might add at that time there were still hunters present.

We went to your June meeting because we were trying to do it the right way and we requested what we felt like would be fair to the dog hunters, which was simply asking for the areas outside of the game management areas, because we are blessed, as some people would say, with three game management areas in Vernon Parish, and they have just about took up 75 percent of the area that you can hunt in.

Now the other areas that are open to hunting are close to highways, et cetera. Now they did open north of Highway 28 from Leesville to the Texas line and west of 117 for dogs. We appreciated



that. We got that little corner. We got a little corner over in the northeast section and one in the southeast section. The bulk of the parish is closed to dog hunting.

Now if we are asking in the wrong manner or something like that, I would like to know what we have to do. You know, what do we need to do to get it open, because the overwhelming majority of the hunters feel that the dog hunters are just not getting a fair shake. They get to hunt still hunting. We don't get to hunt with dogs. They can understand our plight and we can understand theirs. However, then we felt like that the three game management areas gave sufficient area for still hunting, if they really wanted to still hunt, protected deer herds, et cetera, and we didn't ask to cut them out on the outside. We said with or without dogs, but it seems like we are the only ones who ever get cut out. We are second class citizens, so to speak.

All we are trying to do, and I thank you for rehearing it here today, is trying to find out what we do need to do. We have had a resolution



passed by the police jury. We have got one member of the jury here with us today, Mr. M. O. Poston, if you will stand there, Mr. Poston. I brought him along not to pressure but just to let you know that they speak for the people. I don't think that he will tell you that he has had very many complaints when they passed a resolution to open it with or without dogs. I think if the complaints came, they were certainly not an open complaint. We have heard none. None of the police jurors have heard none. I understand there was some petitions circulated. I was fox hunting out west of Leesville there and a gentleman drove up to turn his dogs loose, Mr. Tommy Kay, and I said, "Well, Tommy, I hope we can open this thing up a little bit where we don't all have to concentrate on you all's area out here."

He said, "What did you all ask them for over there?"

I said, "We asked them to open everything outside of the game management areas with or without dogs and we also at the same time met with Mr. Joe Herring separately and asked him to see if



there wasn't some way we could use what is known as Range Road in the Peason Artillery Range. It's got people completely cut out."

Some places you can stand and see the road, from the line of the management area. Some places the road is outside of it. It meanders. So one area comes down there in a pretty good point and that is the only area that would be any justification whatsoever for not moving it above that area because regardless of what we come up with game, we have to equate it with people. These people that can't get through, they have to drive 40 miles out of the way to get a permit. They can't come through that road with their dogs and guns to go over and get a permit to hunt. They stop them.

So what we would ask for is to let us have the use of the road. Fox hunters or dogs get in there. They can't go in there and catch them. If they had that road, the area is small enough that running a red fox or a cyote, they cross that road. They can get their hands on them, but they can't get in there if they catch a dog and they



start to haul it, well, then they are given a ticket for having a dog in the truck, which is right according to the law right now. What we are wanting is the use of that road.

But that's getting away from our petition. He said, "That's not what they are telling you all asked for."

I said, "What do you mean, Tommy?"

He said, "They said you wanted to close down Lutchter-Moore game reserve here, and said a certain game warden got a call and said, 'Circulate these petitions,' and had his daddy out circulating these petitions."

I said, "Well, Tommy, that's not what we asked for."

He said, "Well, that's what they are telling you all asked for. You just want to throw it wide open, throw everything to the wind."

That is the furthest from our mind. We like to hunt deer. We want them there. You know, we are going to take care of the deer as much as anybody takes care of the deer.

But getting back to the petition, I



checked also, and another game warden approached Mr. Kraft with a petition and said, "I am supposed to circulate a petition here." Now to me personally I feel that is a little bit unethical to call game wardens, to have them circulate petitions among people, you know, that is supposed to be trying to get things themselves, and I can produce the evidence either way.

My only point is that we need more area to hunt with or without dogs. We will accept anything you all give us. If it is three days, one day or part of the parish in addition to what we've got, from the Rapides line, the Texas line, you would only be giving a little corner, anything you all will give us, that's what we are down here for, asking for mercy.

I recommend that we do open it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hicks.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Poston to come up and give us his comments on it. I would like to hear from him on what he thinks about it and what the police jury thinks about it.



MR. M. O. POSTON: Gentlemen, I am M. O. Poston, Ward 2, Vernon Parish. Our people, we made this resolution and it was passed 10 out of 12, and one of these men had a brother-in-law, the other one lives in a game management area. We had this meeting last summer that Mr. Joe Herring was at, and I believe he can tell you that the turnout that was on it, the interest that was put in it.

We would like some consideration on it. There are a lot of people in there that are dog hunters and they are real interested in it, and we would like to be considered on it. Any consideration you can give us we would appreciate.

MR. ANGELLE: Can I ask you a question, Mr. Poston? Two questions. Actually one may have to be directed to Mr. Hicks, but then you may have the answer also. These two jurors that voted against that, do they represent that particular area that is in question?

MR. POSTON: No, no, they don't.

MR. ANGELLE: As you recollect, for what reason did they vote negative on the jury concerning this particular problem?



MR. POSTON: Well, this one juror lives in Ward 3, which is a game management area, and he said he liked it. The other one has a brother-in-law that is a game warden, and of course his brother-in-law was in consideration with the Commission, which we are also, and he did not go along with it.

MR. ANGELLE: Thank you, sir. My other question was, under whose directions were these game wardens issued, about these petitions in opposition to these people's requests, who gave the authority to the game wardens to go out and circulate these petitions? Did it come from the Wild Life and Fisheries, or they did this on their own, at a separate meeting within the area? Joe?

MR. HERRING: I questioned Mike Hogan about the game wardens and neither one of us are aware of game wardens going around distributing any petitions in that area. Some people possibly did, but as far as game wardens or any of our personnel distributing petitions, I don't know anything about that now.

MR. ANGELLE: There was no memorandum sent from the Enforcement Division or the game



management area --

MR. HERRING: No, sir.

MR. ANGELLE: -- asking these game wardens to go out there and circulate petitions?

MR. HERRING: No. If anybody did it, they did it on their own. There is nothing in the records to indicate that, and as far as game wardens going around, anybody going around, there is no indication of that.

MR. BERRY: Joe, how critical do you think this would be to give them some area to hunt with their dogs in?

MR. HERRING: At the present time, still hunting has been good. We are building our deer herds up good. This is a different type of terrain that you have in some of your dog hunting areas. It is an open hill country type and you don't have a lot of the cover that you have in a lot of the other parts of the state, especially the bottomland part. What he has said about the game management areas, we do have three wildlife management areas in that parish. Two of them we have to cooperate with the federal government on, because they are



on Fort Polk and Peason Ridge, which the army does have control over, and we have to continuously meet with them to work out regulations on this, so a lot of the regulations are not necessarily ours. They are joint regulations that the army does require, too.

We have had several meetings with them. July 29, 1971; September 28, 1971; May 4, 1972; and June 24, 1972. There has been at each time a request from these same individuals, requesting that the area be opened for dog hunting there.

The population is building. The deer kill has gone up a little bit in that parish with the still hunts that we have. That is why we have been able to open some of the additional parish. The whole parish is now open to deer hunting, whereas, as I stated, nine years ago part of the parish was closed. We have had very good success in building up. It is a tradition over there, still hunting. In fact, that is why it started off as a still hunting area rather than dog hunting. The people over there wanted to do this. They wanted it in a whole area on down south of there, going



down as far as Cameron Parish, starting there, and this was a request by the sportsmen at that time to come in and open there for still hunting and no dogs at that time, to see what they could do with the deer herd. They have continuously built up with these good hunting conditions.

MR. BERRY: Joe, do you think something like a three-day open season for the parish with dogs would be that critical, to give these men some consideration?

MR. HERRING: I would like to have our personnel check the areas again before we make any other recommendations other than what we have made thus far. I would like our technical people to make a report on it and a thorough check in that whole area before I would come up with any other recommendations than what we have made out of the kill data and the checks that we have previously made and recommended to set the season.

MR. BERRY: I would like to see you do that. I would like to see you check that area again and see if you couldn't give these men about three days open season, if there is any way possible.



I think they are due some consideration.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herring, we do have time before the season opens. I mean we have one more meeting before November. One other thing I would like to ask. In the area in Vernon Parish that has been open to dog hunting over the period of years, what is the status of the population of deer in that particular parish relative to the other part of the parish in the years past?

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, at this May 4, 1972 meeting in Leesville that he was mentioning, on the Courthouse Square, one of the dog hunters did make the statement there at that meeting that the reason they wanted to change the still hunting area to dog hunting area was because there were more deer in there because the dogs hadn't been running them, and they would like to change this area, the still hunting area to dog hunting, the dog hunting area to still hunting. I hope that explains it.

MR. JERRY KRAFT: My name is Jerry Kraft and I was the man that asked Mr. Joe Herring if we could swap the thing around a little bit, and my



reason for this was that there is such a small area on the north side of Highway 465 for us to hunt in that we have overhunted. There is no doubt about it. We have overhunted it, because I can take you out there any day and I can show you or you can hear five packs of dogs running, in a three mile wide, five mile long strip of ground.

Now, Mr. Herring, I may have misunderstood or misinterpreted what he said about the open land, but the land that we are talking about now on the south side of 465, in particular, that we would like to see open, is wooded. There is plenty of pine timber on it. Now half or better of this land that we currently have to hunt on is wide open woods. There is a pine tree every 50 steps or so, you know. This is the second growth coming up from natural rather than being planted as the territory on the south side of 465 is.

Now I am no expert on deer or anything else, but it stands to reason to me that if you turn a mob of hunters, and I use the word "mob" to mean just exactly that, a mass of hunters, loose in a three mile by five mile area, you are going



to overhunt it, and we would like to spread the thing out. I thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, it is my understanding that you all would request that our game department make another study of this area and come back to us in the October meeting with a recommendation one way or the other and hopefully that we can give them a three or four-day dog season. I don't think it would take any further Commission action other than a directive from the Commission.

MR. POSTON: We would like to ask that we could get permission to hunt with or without dogs outside the game management areas.

THE CHAIRMAN: We understand. Joe, do you understand? All right. We don't need any other Commission action. Thank you, sir.

MR. HICKS: Mr. Chairman, there is one other thing I would like to mention. You can look at your own map and all we are asking for is to be treated like people and right now we are not.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Hicks.

Other business, it has been requested



that we move up the October meeting one week. In other words, the third Tuesday in the month of October, because of the Southeastern meeting in, where is it, in Knoxville, Tennessee. Is that all right with you gentlemen?

MR. WALKER: This will be the third Tuesday?

THE CHAIRMAN: The third Tuesday instead of the fourth Tuesday, our regular meeting date.

MR. POSTON: Let me ask you one thing, please.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir, Mr. Poston.

MR. POSTON: I don't believe anything was ever carried further on this range road, use of this range road for the hunters. If it could be possible, we would like to have permission for the hunters, in other words, the people on our side, the west side, have to go all the way out to Leesville, back to Kurthwood, to get a permit to hunt, and we would like to have permission to go through there, people to carry their dogs through, to go through there with their dogs and guns to pick up their permit. We would like to have the



use of this road.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Poston, I think that -- Joe, didn't we ask the Army?

MR. HERRING: That's right. We have been working on that and it has not been traditional on our wildlife management areas to permit dogs and guns to trespass on the wildlife management areas. However, we are meeting with the Army to see what can be worked out on their areas, i.e., areas that we have leased from the Army and also some other areas that we have leased in the national forest areas, to see what we can work out on that, because we do have to work with these people on our leased lands.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you think you can have something by the next meeting maybe on that, too?

MR. HERRING: All right.

MR. POSTON: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the next order of business is the sale of the boat ZORIC.

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, is Mr. Claude LeBlanc, our wharf superintendent, in the audience? He is not? I think Mr. Yancey can



handle this. I would just like to make this brief remark prior to Mr. Yancey completing it, that this Commission, this new Director will go on record as recommending that we do dispose of the boat ZORIC and transfer the board WIDGEON from the Refuge Division to the Enforcement Division. Mr. Yancey has the figures on repairing the ZORIC, the approximate value of it in reselling it. I would like to call on Mr. Yancey to make that complete report.

MR. YANCEY: The boat ZORIC was purchased by the Commission back in about 1950, which means it is some 22 years old now and it is in need of extensive renovation which is probably going to cost up to \$15,000. Of course, we all know the boat is obsolete, and we feel that it would be advisable at this time to perhaps put this boat up for sale through the Division of Administration, with the tabulation of bids coming back to the Commission here to determine if the high bid offered is reasonable in consideration of the condition of the boat.

However, we don't want to put this boat up for sale without a resolution of the Commission



authorizing the Division of Administration to put it up for sale.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Autin. Any other discussion on it?

MR. ANGELLE: Dick, for the benefit of the press, maybe, and the people that are in the audience, we may want to tell them what we expect to do with the WIDGEON once the ZORIC has been sold, if that does come to pass.

THE CHAIRMAN: And what you are going to do with the money if you sell the ZORIC.

MR. YANCEY: Of course, the WIDGEON has been assigned to the Rockefeller Refuge and this would mean that it would be transferred to the Enforcement Division to replace the boat ZORIC and to be used for enforcement work along the entire Louisiana coastal marsh. In order to refund the Rockefeller Refuge account for the transfer of the



boat WIDGEON, we would of course recommend that the receipts from the sale of the ZORIC be put into the Rockefeller account, rather than into the conservation fund, because the WIDGEON was originally purchased out of Rockefeller Refuge funds.

MR. BERRY: Dick, wasn't the ZORIC a second-hand boat, when we bought it back in '50, '52?

MR. YANCEY: The record doesn't really show that but we think that it was. We think that the boat was built many years prior to that, but the records that we have indicate that the Commission purchased it back in 1950 but they don't really say whether it was new or second-hand, but the information we have is that it was.

MR. ANGELLE: I would like to add that both Chief Hogan and Mr. Allen Ensminger, chief of Refuge Division, do concur with these recommendations, that we have discussed this prior to the meeting and that they are in full accord and feel that we can do better patrol and enforcement work with the WIDGEON because it is a much faster boat and can be used here on the coastal area after



being moved out of the Rockefeller Refuge.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, it has been moved and it has been seconded. Is there any other discussion?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, the boat ZORIC is in need of expensive repair work that will prove to be very costly to the Commission,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Division of Administration be requested to solicit bids for the sale of this boat with the tabulation of bids to be reviewed and approved by the Commission before final action is taken.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Walker.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I have two items that I would like to bring before the Commission.

I am in receipt of a letter from Governor



Edwards, dated August 21, 1972, that I would like to read to the Commission. It is a letter that I think we will all well receive.

(Reading) "Dear Friend: In response to your petition request, I would like you to know personally that the Conservation Fund will be totally used by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission with the beginning of the 1973 budget year.

"I know that you share with me the pride in seeing this type of legislation passed. As a Congressman and candidate for governor, I constantly addressed myself to the preservation of the outdoor facilities which we in this state have at our disposal. During this legislative session we have also been able to have bills passed dealing directly with the problems of ecology so that future generations may have the opportunity to enjoy the wonders of our state.

"We all must have priorities and I as your governor am no exception. You and others indicated that this was a priority issue and therefore I proceeded with that consideration in mind. We have been able to bring this matter to fruition



and, being quite candid, it was not easy with all of the different demands upon the state treasury. If we had been able to get the gas rebate legislation passed, I firmly believe we could have done even more, but this was not to come to pass. I believe the future will prove the wisdom of what we tried to do.

"I appreciate your interest and concern and hope I can rely upon your continued support in the future.

"Sincerely yours, Edwin Edwards."

Mr. Chairman, this letter gives us a lot of hope for the future and I have some recommendations that I would like to make to the Commission.

(1) I ask that the Director send a letter of thanks and appreciation to the Governor and the legislature for returning the Conservation Fund to the Commission.

(2) I propose that we send to the Governor an updated long range planning program by January 1, 1973, so that he can see what we have planned in the future for Wild Life and Fisheries.

(3) I propose we send the Governor our



recommendations on how the Commission intends to spend the 1973 Conservation Fund. I propose that this recommendation be placed in the Governor's hands by January 1, 1973.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you put that in the form of a motion, Mr. Walker?

MR. WALKER: Yes, sir. I heartily put it in the form of a motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a second to that motion?

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Berry. Is there any other discussion on the matter?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

You have something else?

MR. WALKER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, being from Pineville, Louisiana, Central Louisiana, Catahoula Lake is my love, and no one knows it better than Mr. Dick Yancey, with whom I have worked very closely since I have been fortunate enough to serve on this Commission.



This year we have in operation for the first time the Catahoula Lake Diversion Canal, which was installed by the Corps of Engineers to preserve Catahoula Lake as a wildlife habitat. Mr. Yancey has done years of work on Catahoula Lake and it has been a great pleasure to work with him on this. Let me say this. There is in existence now a written contract or agreement between the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries, the Corps of Engineers and the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission on how this Diversion Canal and the control structures shall be operated. It is a well drawn-up agreement and I heartily endorse it 100 percent.

Since this is the first year I would like to see the Commission appoint someone who will be a liaison man between the conditions of Catahoula Lake and the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission or personnel, and frankly I am speaking of Mr. Dick Yancey. Mr. Yancey has done considerable work. He works with the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and the Corps of Engineers, and I would like to submit to this Commission this request that we do appoint someone that will act as a liaison man.



THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Walker, with the permission of this Commission, and since you are in the neighborhood, know the conditions of the lake and everything else concerning it, I would like to appoint you as a committee of one from the Commission.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the confidence that you have placed in me. I would like to make this statement. I will serve with no per diem, no expenses. My role will be that of a liaison man between Mr. Yancey and myself and, if needed, the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries. I accept this position wholeheartedly and with the understanding that it is without authority to change anything that is now in existence.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Walker. Is there any other business to come before the Commission? Mr. Angelle.

MR. ANGELLE: The press has a copy of this release. However, I would like to read it so that it can be taped for the benefit of the Commission. It states the following:

"I was advised Friday of the arrest of



Mr. Thomas Damato at the residence of Mr. Ted O'Neil, Chief of the Fur Division, in Abbeville on Thursday; and that Mr. Damato had been charged with illegal transportation of alligator hides. This charge was based upon the fact that the hides did not have the proper shipping tags.

"Contrary to reports circulating at present, the alligators were taken during the recent experimental alligator hunting season in Cameron Parish and were properly tagged with the tags issued to authorized hunters, and bore the validation tags that we affixed following the season at Rockefeller Refuge. However, they did not carry the proper transportation tags and that is the charge filed against Thomas Damato.

"I immediately ordered a full investigation of Mr. O'Neil's association with Damato and any connection that he might have with the incident. Mr. O'Neil was called before myself and the Commission in public session Monday (yesterday) and he was instructed to furnish a written report on the incident and his involvement in it. As soon as this report is furnished, I will take whatever



action is indicated to be proper under the circumstances. This will be done with full concurrence of the entire Commission.

"Col. Mike Hogan, Chief of the Enforcement Division, is continuing his investigation of the entire matter and a full statement will be issued to the news media as soon as the investigation is complete; and Mr. O'Neil has furnished his written report of his association with Thomas Damato and his involvement in the matter.

"It should be reiterated at this time that the hides in question were legally taken during the recent alligator season and properly tagged with both the hunter's tag and the validation tag issued at Rockefeller Refuge.

"According to the tag numbers, one was the property of John Paul Crain and six were the property of R. J. Stine of Cameron Parish.

"A full investigation into the matter is being conducted and it would be premature to comment further on the incident or how the hides in question came into Damato's possession, until the investigation is complete.



"I would like to state emphatically that this incident, now under full investigation, has no connection with the conduct of the special experimental alligator season in Cameron Parish but is an internal matter within the Commission that is being thoroughly investigated and will be made public.

"A comprehensive report on the season itself and the results have already been issued by my office."

I notice this morning the Times-Picayune has an article where Ted O'Neil was not available when they called on him and further it says the Director was also unavailable. We worked in here until close to six o'clock last night, went on to the ball game, and came back in here about 12:30, so yesterday at the special meeting which was a public meeting, the press was present, the Times-Picayune was not, so this was in answer to this article that came out. I was in my office early this morning and if the Picayune has anything that they want to find out, it is all above board and this is the way we are going to carry out my



stewardship as director. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is there any other business to come before the Commission?

(No response)

Do I hear a motion we adjourn?

MR. WALKER: I so move.

. . .Thereupon, at 11:05 o'clock
a.m., Tuesday, September 26, 1972,
the meeting was adjourned. . . .

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

